

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08838 01 OF 02 271822Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NEA-10 OIC-02 ACDA-07 DHA-02 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 /129 W
-----099567 271835Z /42

O 271758Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1072
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 08838

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977:
POLITICAL COOPERATION: AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7933; (B) BRUSSELS 8649

1. SUMMARY:

PRIOR TO THEIR FORMAL COUNCIL SESSION ON JULY 26, THE
EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICA
COOPERATION TO APPROVE THE EC'S OPENING STATEMENT FOR
THE LAGOS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID. THE MINISTERS ALSO
DISCUSSED SOUTHERN AFRICA IN GENERAL, REVIEWED EFFORTS
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08838 01 OF 02 271822Z

TO DEVELOP A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EC BUSINESSES OPERATING
IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND BRIEFLY TOOK NOTE OF THE GENERAL
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE SCHEDULED
IN OCTOBER. THIS MESSAGE COVERS PRESS BRIEFINGS
PROVIDED BY MINISTERS AND PERMREP OFFICIALS ATTENDING
THE COUNCIL MEETING. EMBASSY BRUSSELS IS REPORTING
SEPTTEL ON BELGIAN PRESIDENCY BRIEFING. END SUMMARY.

2. LAGOS CONFERENCE:

THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE TEXT OF THE OPENING DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY THE EC REPRESENTATIVE AT THE AUGUST 22-26 LAGOS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID, AGREEING AS WELL ON THE NEED TO AVOID LEAKS OR EXTENSIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE. DUTCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN EMPHASIZED TO REPORTERS THAT THE DECLARATION DOES NOT PRECLUDE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES GOING BEYOND THE COMMON COMMUNITY POSITION AND NOTED, IN THIS REGARD, THAT DUTCH LEGISLATION NOW PENDING WOULD ALLOW THE GON TO APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. A BELGIAN SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE STATEMENT AS A SYNTHESIS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE POSITIONS REGARDING APARTHEID AND SAID IT INCLUDES A COMMITMENT BY THE NINE TO IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO POLICIES OR ACTIONS MAINTAINING OR STABILIZING APARTHEID, AND TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THEY CAN ORGANIZE TO ELIMINATE APARTHEID ALTOGETHER. A UK PERM REP SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE DECLARATION INCLUDES A SHORT PARAGRAPH CALLING ATTENTION TO ARMS EMBARGO MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN BY EC MEMBER STATES.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA;

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 08838 01 OF 02 271822Z

THE MINISTERS RECEIVED BUT TOOK NO ACTION ON A PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THEIR AFRICA EXPERTS ON THE PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EC BUSINESSES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA (REFTELS). THEY AGREED TO RETURN TO THIS DOSSIER AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 20 COUNCIL MEETING AND AGAIN AT A SPECIAL POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, ON THE EVE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. RUTTEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE EXPERTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE WORK ON IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF LEGAL BASIS FOR IMPOSITION OF SUCH A CODE BY THE COMMUNITY. A BELGIAN SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FEELS A CODE OF CONDUCT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT BUT SUGGESTED THAT A UNGA DECLARATION REGARDING SUCH ACTION MIGHT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY BASIS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR FORCING COMPANY COMPLIANCE. (COMMENT: ANOTHER FACTOR COMPLICATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A CODE IS THAT NOT ALL EC MEMBER STATES AGREE ON ITS DESIRABILITY--E.G., FRANCE).

4. THE MINISTERS ALSO RECEIVED A REPORT ON THE EXPERTS'

OVERALL STUDY OF EC POLICIES TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA (REFTELS). A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN TOLD REPORTERS THE EXPERTS HAVE JUST BEGIN THEIR REVIEW OF POLICY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND ARE NOW MAKING AN INVENTORY OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS IN THAT SECTOR.

5. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE:

ACCORDING TO PERM REP SOURCES, THE MINISTERS SIMPLY TOOK NOTE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 26-28 GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT BELGIAN FON MIN SIMONET, IN HIS CAPACITY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WILL SHORTLY DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING WITH LOCAL ARAB AMBASSADORS. A BELGIAN PERMDEL SOURCE TOLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BRUSSE 08838 01 OF 02 271822Z

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08838 02 OF 02 271822Z
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OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 /129 W
-----099575 271834Z /45

O 271758Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1073

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 08838

THE MISSION THAT SIMONET IS CONSIDERING VISITING SAUDI

ARABIA PRIOR TO THE GENERAL COMMISSION SESSIONS, BECAUSE
SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE IN THE CHAIR FOR THE ARABS AT THAT
TIME).HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE08838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0343
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770715/aaaaamvl.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30098663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 7933, 77 BRUSSELS 8649
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1739138
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977: POLITICAL COOPERATION: AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: EGEN, PGOV, XF, XA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30098663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009